

XXX.—A new Tuco-tuco from Tucuman.

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

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Ctenomys occultus, sp. n.A small species nearly allied to *C. juris*.

Size rather less than in *juris*. Colour rather a warmer tinge of brown, more as in *C. bergi* and *latro*; upper surface glossy cinnamon-brown with some vague darkening on the crown, but without a definite blackish forehead. Under surface broadly washed with pale drabby, the chin and throat stronger drabby; some specimens are more whitish below, while among the examples of *juris* some are inclined to be drabby; but on the average *occultus* is decidedly more drabby, especially anteriorly, than *juris*.

Skull agreeing with that of *juris* in its small bullæ, proodont incisors, and the presence of a small sharp-edged ledge projecting over the orbital fossæ, the notch in front of these ledges shorter, sharper, and more abruptly cut out than in other species. Bullæ slightly larger than those of *juris*, though agreeing essentially with them; in *bergi* and *fochi* they are decidedly larger than in either. Zygomata widely spaced, their middle region markedly more convex outwards than in *juris*. Palatal foramina with the small median additional foramen just in front of them much smaller and less conspicuous—indeed, hardly perceptible in some specimens. Palation level with the middle of m^2 . Bullæ averaging slightly larger than in *juris*, though agreeing essentially with them.

Incisors rather proodont, index about 102° – 104° . Molars smaller than those of *C. juris*.

Dimensions of the type:—

Head and body 138 mm.; tail 55; hind foot 26.5.

Skull: median length 38.7; condylo-incisive length 37.8; zygomatic breadth 25.2; nasals 12.5; interorbital breadth 8.7; least breadth across brain-case 16.5; bi-meatal breadth 24; palatilar length 17.7. Upper tooth-series (crowns) 7.2; diagonal diameter of p^4 3; breadth across outer crowns of p^4 7.8.

Hab. Southern part of Tucuman Province. Type and three other specimens from Monteagudo, about 80 km. S.E. of Tucuman City; one specimen from La Madrid, 15 km. further in the same direction.

Type. Adult female. B.M. no. 20. 7. 6. 8. Original number 5884. Collected 11th May, 1917, by L. M. Dinelli.

Although undoubtedly very closely allied to *C. juris* of Jujuy, this tuco-tuco differs from it by so many little characters that it seems to deserve a special name. The rather larger but still allied species *C. latro* occurs between the two.

XXXI.—*On a Collection of Pycnogonida from the South Orkney Islands.* By W. T. CALMAN, D.Sc.

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THE Museum has recently received from Mr. A. G. Bennett a small collection of Pycnogonida dredged in shallow water at the South Orkney Islands. Among other specimens of interest it includes an example of the remarkable *Decolopoda antarctica*, hitherto known only by the single individual described fifteen years ago by Prof. Bouvier.

Decolopoda antarctica, Bouvier.

Colossendeis antarctica, Bouvier, Bull. Mus. Hist. Nat. Paris, xi. 1905, p. 295.

Decalopoda antarctica, Bouvier, C. R. Acad. Sci. cxlii. 1906, p. 17.

Decolopoda antarctica, Bouvier, "Pycnogonides du 'Français,'" Exped. Antarct. Franç. (1903-1905) 1906, p. 21, pl. i., pl. ii. figs. 1-5, text-figs. 1 & 2.

Locality.—Scotia Bay, South Orkneys; one female.

Remarks.—The specimen hardly differs in size from Bouvier's holotype (also a female), and, except as regards the palps, it agrees very closely with his description and figures. Bouvier states that the palps consist of eight segments, while those of *D. australis* consist of nine, excluding in both cases the basal prominence. In the present specimen the palp of the left side has eight segments and the terminal one is rounded at the tip and only a little more slender than the preceding. The right palp, however, has ten segments, and the terminal one is slender, curved, and claw-like. It may be assumed that this right palp is abnormal, possibly as a result of regeneration following injury; but I know of no other case of abnormality in this group in which the number of segments is greater than the normal.

The assumption of a claw-like form by the terminal segment may, perhaps, be regarded as a case of homœosis, since,